

Guide to the Preparation, Use and Quality Assurance of Blood Components, 4th ed. Council of Europe. (\$25.00.) Council of Europe Publishing, 1998. ISBN 92 8713530 4.

This modest paperback represents the consensus of an international group of transfusionists. The guidelines contained therein are intended for transfusion services and clinicians of the 40 member states of the Council of Europe, and form the technical appendix to a statutory recommendation. One therefore approaches the volume with some trepidation and one's fears are not allayed by the somewhat baffling cover illustration. It is a relief therefore to find that the content is well set out and comprehensive and the language clear and comprehensible.

Much of this book will be reassuringly familiar to those who daily use the United Kingdom BTS "Red Book" guidelines. However, there are statements here which may raise a clinical eyebrow, such as the recommendations in chapter 26 regarding patient identification and compatibility testing.

There is throughout an odd mixture of detail and generality, the obvious and the obscure. Labelling specifications appear with monotonous regularity, while in the more complex areas of practice, such as haematopoietic progenitor cell collection, the advice is unclear and even misleading. Those seeking guidance on transfusion in neonates will be frustrated and confused.

Such reservations aside, those of us who struggle towards harmonisation within the United Kingdom can only marvel at the very existence of this book. The production of these guidelines has drawn together a group of experts from 16 nations to declare and develop a common commitment to good practice in blood transfusion. This is in itself a remarkable achievement, and the outcome must be universally applauded.

D STAINSBY

NOTICES

British Division of the International Academy of Pathology. Symposium on Breast Pathology

27–28 November 1998
London, UK

Symposium on Pulmonary Pathology

Swansea, UK
16–17 April 1999

Symposium on Gynaecological Pathology

Sheffield, UK
10–11 September 1999

Symposium on Urological Pathology

London, UK
26–27 November 1999

Further details from:

Mrs C Harris, PO Box 73, Westbury on Trym, Bristol BS9 1RY, UK; tel +44 (0)117 907 7940; fax +44 (0)117 907 7941; email: bdiap@cablenet.co.uk

Practical Pulmonary Pathology

14–15 April 1999
Imperial College School of Medicine
London, UK

Further details from:

Professor B Corrin, Brompton Hospital, London SW3 6NP; fax +44 (0)171 351 8293; email: b.corrin@ic.ac.uk

Current Concepts in Surgical Pathology

16–20 November 1998
The Four Seasons Hotel Boston
Massachusetts, USA

Organised by the Department of Pathology, Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School.

Further details from:

Department of Continuing Education, Harvard Medical School, PO Box 825, Boston, MA 02115, USA; tel +1 617 432 0195; fax +1 617 432 1562; email: hms-cme@warren.med.harvard.edu

IARC International Course on Infections that Increase the Risk of Cancer

13–18 December 1998
"Les Pensières", Veyrier-du-Lac,
Annecy, France

Further information from:

Monique Davis, Course Organiser, IARC Courses Programme, 150 cours Albert Thomas, 69372 Lyon Cedex 08, France; tel +33 (0) 472 738435; fax +33 (0) 472 738575; email: davis@iarc.fr

Postgraduate Course in Urologic Surgical Pathology

16–18 January 1999
San Diego Hilton
Beach and Tennis Resort

Organised by the Department of Pathology, Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School.

Further details from:

Department of Continuing Education, Harvard Medical School, PO Box 825, Boston, MA 02115, USA; tel +1 617 432 0195; fax +1 617 432 1562; email: hms-cme@Warren.med.harvard.edu